(c) For 2004-2005, new weapons will cost approximately Rs.3.72 crores.

Approximately 7,000 AK-47s and 5.56 milimetre (mm) INSAS Rifles as well as 2,000 Carbines have to be inducted further. Total cost is estimated to be 15.55 Crores approximately.

The full induction is likely to be completed within the next 5 years, by 2009-2010.

Railway Travel Agents

†984. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of Railway Travel Agents and Railway Tourist Agents appointed by Government alongwith the details of the procedure of their selection;

(b) whether Government would grant the benefit of reservation to SC/ ST and regional candidates in the said appointments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) State-wise number of the agents appointed, so far, and State-wise details of the candidates of reserved categories among them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Congested railway stations

985. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway stations in the country which are highly congested due to increasing rail passengers, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to decongest these railway stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.